



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

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News Release

INNOVATIVE IRIS IDENTIFICATION SCAN MEETS SHERIFF BACA'S VISION

During a press conference today at Century Regional Detention Facility, Sheriff Baca unveiled a new and innovative iris biometric identification system. This system was donated to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department through a National Sheriff's Association grant from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is receiving five Inmate Identification and Recognition Systems, known as IRIS. This non-intrusive eye-scan system was developed by BI² Technologies and will help identify inmates by unique features located in the iris of the eye. This two-year pilot program will be conducted at no cost to Los Angeles County and in return, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department will provide feedback to the National Sheriff's Association about the system. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department will be utilizing the system within the custody environment to scan inmates during the booking process and confirm inmate identification upon their release. This system is also used with the Children's Identification and Location Database (CHILD) Project and Senior Safety Net. These nationwide programs are used to identify missing children and senior citizens. Each of these programs is similar to the Inmate Identification and Recognition Systems in that they scan an individual's iris and the information is stored in a database provided by BI² Technologies. Sheriff Baca stated, "This system should provide the personnel working in the custody environment with a valuable tool for identifying inmates."